

On Monday, March 21, 2005, during survey efforts being conducted in the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site, another Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infested tree was found in the City of Linden.

A silver maple with seven egg sites and no exit holes was found on a private residence across from the Linden Municipal Airport. This area is located within the established ALB quarantine zone, approximately three-quarters of a mile from the northern boundary. A meeting has been scheduled with Linden officials for Tuesday, March 29, to discuss the impacts of the new find, including additional trees that must be removed because of it.

This discovery marks the third infested tree to be found in the City of Linden. The first ALB infested tree was found Oct. 29, 2004 in an area by the Linden Landfill. The second tree was discovered Oct. 31, 2004 next to the Linden Humane Society. Both trees were red maples with egg sites and no exit holes. Program officials are conducting intensive survey efforts of the area to see if there are any additional infested trees.

As a result of this most recent find, program officials are in the process of assessing the situation to determine the number of trees that will require removal, along with the number of non-infested susceptible host trees that will require chemical treatment, in order to stop the spread of this destructive pest.

As of March 23, 2005, 2,753 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site. Of those, 501 were infested host trees and 2,252 were high-risk exposed host trees.

Crews continued to work removing trees this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Currently, 13 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine.

Nine USDA Forest Service smokejumpers, along with 15 contracted tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Expert Company, continued to survey trees this week in the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site.

Program personnel will remain on-site during the tree removal process to address concerns from homeowners and to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.

On March 14 – 15 Barry Leilik, New Jersey Parks Outreach Coordinator, distributed ALB information to the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association (NJRPA) conference in Atlantic City. Attendees of the NJRPA Conference included state, county and municipal park employees.